

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-02 ISO-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:MGWYGANT:IW

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R 182001Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 076185

FOLLOWING STATE 076185 ACTION NIAMEY PARIS USUN NEW YORK  
INFO ABIDJAN OUAGADOUGOU BAMAKO NDJAMENA DAKAR LOME  
COTONOU ACCRA LAGOS NOUAKCHOTT APR 15TH.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 076185

E.O. 11652:GDS

SUBJECT:COUP

REF: NIAMEY 1066 (NOTAL), NIAMEY 1068 (NOTAL)

PARIS FOR AMBASSADOR HECK, USUN FOR AMBASSADOR EASUM

1. REFTELS REPORTED MILITARY COUP IN NIAMEY APRIL 15  
RESULTING IN ARREST PRESIDENT DIORI AND OTHER GON  
OFFICIALS. CHIEF OF STAFF OF NIGER'S ARMED FORCES LT. COL.  
KOUNTCHE SEGNI ANNOUNCED ON NIAMEY RADIO THAT THE ARMY  
WAS PUTTING AN END TO "REGIME...MARKED BY INJUSTICE,  
CORRUPTION, SELFISHNESS AND INDIFFERENCE TOWARD THE  
PEOPLE". CHIEF OF STAFF ANNOUNCED THE SUSPENSION OF THE  
CONSTITUTION, DISSOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND  
ABOLITION OF ALL POLITICAL AND PARA-POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS.  
HE "REAFFIRMED NIGER'S MEMBERSHIP IN ALL AFRICAN AND  
NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND RESPECT FOR ALL PREVIOUS COM-  
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MITMENTS PROVIDED THEY ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE

INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE". KOUNTCHE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE MILIARY AND CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES WILL INSURE THE MAINTENANCE OF ORDER AND THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY.

2. SUCH INFORMATION AS IS AVAILABLE HERE ON KOUNTCHE WOULD INDICATE THAT THE COUP WAS MOTIVATED BY INTERNAL

POLIICAL DIFFERENCES. KOUNTCHE HAS BEEN A KEY MEMBER OF NIGERIEN MILITARY SINCE INDEPENDENCE. OUR INFORMATION ON HIM IS BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY.

3. FOLLOWING IS A DIGEST OF DEPARTMENT'S GENERAL GUIDANCE IN THE EVENT OF AN ABRUPT CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT. (PARA 4-7)

4. EMBASSY SHOULD PLAY ANY QUESTION ABOUT RECOGNITION OF NEW GOVERNMENT IN AS LOW A KEY AS POSSIBLE WITH A VIEW TO AVOIDANCE OF SEEMING TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE THE NEW GOVERNMENT. TO THAT END: (A) MAINTAIN ROUTINE WORKING CONTACTS AND HOLD OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION TO GOVERNMENT OFFICES; (B) AVOID CONCLUDING NEW AGREEMENTS SINCE THAT MIGHT GIVE RISE TO LATER LEGAL DISPUTES AND COULD GIVE APPEARANCE OF FORMAL RECOGNITION; (C) AVOID OTHER ACTS THAT COULD BE CONSTRUED AS "RECOGNITION"; AND (D) AVOID STATEMENTS SUGGESTING THAT RECOGNITION IS A MAJOR QUESTION THAT WE SHALL FORMALLY, OR DRAMATICALLY, DECIDE AND ANNOUNCE.

5. SUBSEQUENTLY, SUBJECT CONTINUING EVALUATION OF FACTS, WE WOULD ENVISION MOVING GRADUALLY IN DIRECTION OF NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. WHEN WASHINTON SATISFIED TIME RIPE, POST WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO INDICATE USG VIEW THAT NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS CONTINUE.THEREAFTER, IF ASKED WHETHER US RECOGNIZES GOVERNMENT, EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT WOULD RESPOND IN AFFIRMATIVE BUT WOULD NOT IDENTIFY ANY PARTICULAR ACT OR MOVEMENT OF RECOGNITION. IF PRESSED FURTHER, WE WOULD BE ABLE TO POINT OUT THAT THERE HAS BEEN A CONTINUING PROCESS OF DIPLOMATIC CONTACT AND UNFOLDING OF EVENTS AS CONSEQUENCE OF WHICH WE HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM NEW GOVERNMENT HAS SINCE ACCESSION TO POWER ENJOYED CAPACITY IN LAW TO REPRESENT AND BIND STATE.

6. ABOVE APPROACH DESIGNED TO ASSIST IN COPING WITH FOLLOWING NEEDS: (A) TIME TO APPRAISE THE SITUATION ON GROUND; (B) CONTACTS TO FACILITATE APPRAISAL; (C) ACCESS TO OFFICIALS TO PROTECT AMERICAN INTERESTS; (D) LOW

PROFILE TO AVOID INVOLVEMENT OR TAKING SIDES IN ANY  
INTERNAL CONFLICT; (E) POSITION OF ALOOFNESS APPROPRIATE  
OUR RELATIVE INABILITY AFFECT IMMEDIATE OUTCOMES; (F)  
NONCOMMITTAL POSTURE LEAVING OPEN POSSIBILITY OF  
EXERCISING POSSIBLE LIMITED INFLUENCE FAVORABLE TO OUR  
INTERESTS IF AND WHEN OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF; (G)  
AVAILABILITY OPTION DECLARING IN OUR VIEW NEW REGIME  
LACKS LEGAL CAPACITY REPRESENT STATE OR THAT EVEN IF IT  
HAS SUCH CAPACITY, WE DO NOT INTEND CONTINUE DIPLOMATIC  
RELATIONS WITH IT.

7. EMBASSY SHOULD REPORT ON WILLINGNESS NEW GROUP TO  
HONOR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS, CONTROL OF TERRITORY,  
CONSENT OR ACQUIESCENCE OF PEOPLE, REGARD FOR RULE OF LAW,  
AND RESPECT FOR RIGHTS OF FOREIGN NATIONALS AND  
DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS.

8. EMBASSY AND ADO SHOULD EXAMINE OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS  
POSED BY NEW CIRCUMSTANCES AND ADVISE WASHINGTON SOONEST.

9. FOR PARIS FOR AMB. HECK. YOU SHOULD POSTPONE PLANS  
PROCEED NIAMEY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, PER TELCON AF/W.  
SEPARATE INSTRUCTIONS BEING ISSUED. RUSH UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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